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SENATE MEMORIAL 30

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Leonard Lee Rawson

A MEMORIAL

**EXPRESSING APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO LONNIE SUMPTER FOR
HIS CONTRIBUTION TO NEW MEXICO'S FUTURE IN SPACE
COMMERCIALIZATION AND DECLARING FEBRUARY 16, 2007 "LONNIE
SUMPTER DAY" AT THE SENATE.**

**WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter graduated from Oklahoma state
university with a degree in mechanical engineering and was
employed by the army depot in Pueblo, Colorado, as an
engineering intern; and**

**WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter was employed at White Sands
missile range, where he was eventually promoted to senior
project engineer; and**

**WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter was recruited by the Coleman
Research corporation to develop its test and evaluation
business in southern New Mexico; and**

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1 WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter was a founder of General
2 Kinematics corporation; and

3 WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter played a key role in organizing
4 the southwest regional space task force, which charted the
5 early path for New Mexico in the realm of commercial space;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter was appointed executive director
8 of the New Mexico office of space commercialization but had to
9 leave his position due to illness; and

10 WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter continued to make an invaluable
11 contribution to New Mexico's commercial space program with his
12 innovative systems engineering approach to flight safety
13 analyses in support of reusable launch operations, as well as
14 his presentations on the unlimited possibilities for New
15 Mexico in commercial space; and

16 WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter was appointed to New Mexico's
17 military base planning commission and personally developed a
18 description of New Mexico's military advantages, which was
19 included in the state's presentation to the United States
20 department of defense base realignment and closure commission
21 in support of saving Cannon air force base during the base
22 realignment and closure round in 2005; and

23 WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter was appointed director of New
24 Mexico's spaceport authority, where he worked closely with the
25 rocket racing league, UP Aerospace and Virgin Galactic

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1 corporation and provided outstanding executive leadership to
2 New Mexico's commercial spaceport program; and

3 WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter, as director of the spaceport
4 authority, worked diligently on planning, environmental review
5 and licensing for New Mexico's commercial spaceport program;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Lonnie Sumpter, as director of the spaceport
8 authority, presented an inspiring vision of the economic
9 benefits of New Mexico's spaceport through his numerous
10 presentations to civic, cultural, professional and educational
11 groups;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
13 OF NEW MEXICO that sincere appreciation and gratitude be
14 expressed to Lonnie Sumpter for his significant contribution
15 to New Mexico's future in space commercialization and for his
16 love for the New Mexico spaceport program and that February
17 16, 2007 be declared "Lonnie Sumpter Day" at the senate; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
19 transmitted to Lonnie Sumpter.

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